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THE HARRISON ANTINARCOTIC LAW.

THE LAW HELD TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL AND AN INDICTMENT UNDER SECTION 2 SUSTAINED.

At page 193 of this issue of the Public Health Reports appears an opinion of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, in which the court decides that the Harrison Antinarcotic Act is constitutional. In discussing the scope of the law, Judge Killits, in the opinion, says: "We are not content to hold that the only ground upon which the constitutionality of this act can be sustained is that it is designed to protect the revenues of the United States. The indiscriminate and unrestrained use of opium, coca, and their derivatives is well known to be a great evil, gravely affecting the general welfare of the country. These are exclusively foreign products, and it is entirely within the power of Congress, in the interest of the general welfare, to exclude their importation entirely, or to so regulate the traffic in them in this country that their importation may be traced."

THE ENFORCEMENT OF BIRTH REGISTRATION.

EFFECT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGISTRATION AREA FOR BIRTHS UPON THE ATTITUDE OF STATES TOWARD ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTRATION LAWS.

The Bureau of the Census has established a temporary registration area for births for the year 1915, consisting of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota, and the District of Columbia. A permanent registration area for the year 1916 will be defined. The laudable desire of States to be included in this registration area will undoubtedly bring about radical changes in the attitude of State authorities toward the enforcement of the registration laws relating to births. Apparently one of the earliest evidences of this is the action taken in New York State, where State Commissioner of Health Hermann M. Biggs, an acknowledged leader in public-health thought and administration, has issued instruc-